Central American NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Central American Group of the Spanish Main Society.

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Issue No.3 March 1981

EDITORIAL

We are pleased to inform our members that the Central American Group is progressing well. A meeting of the Central American Group, with displays, bourse and auction, was held in Manchester on 14th March.

Whatever may be decided about the future of Spanish Main, we intend with your support and co-operation to ensure that the Central American Group thrives and progresses. We have managed to avoid asking for subscriptions, so far, thanks to an initial float from Mainsheet funds and to commission on packet sales (for which we have largely to thank our Founder and Chairman, John Fosbery). However after our next issue we shall have to reappraise our finances at the AGM. It seems likely that we shall need to ask for an annual subscription of some £3 to cover the quarterly Newsletter and its services. We should be glad to hear the opinions of those members who will be unable to attend the AGM in person. Please therefore let us have confirmation of your continued interest in and support of our Central American Group.

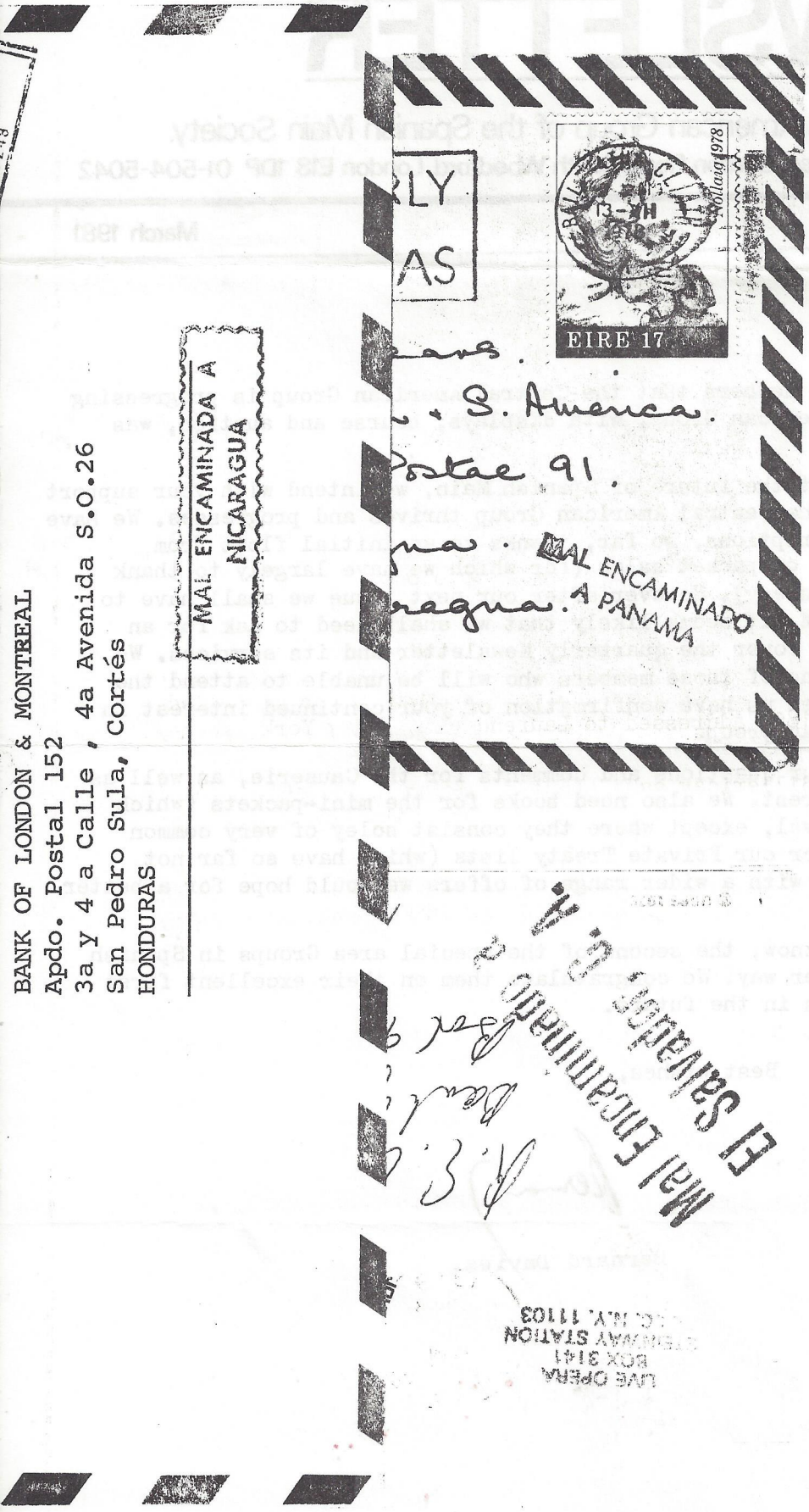
Please keep on sending us your questions and comments for the Causerie, as well as short articles on matters of interest. We also need books for the mini-packets (which seem generally to meet with approval, except where they consist soley of very common items priced rather highly) and for our Private Treaty lists (which have so far not elicited very much response - but with a wider range of offers we would hope for a better 'market').

As most of you will already know, the second of the special area Groups in Spanish Main, the Chile Group, is now under way. We congratulate them on their excellent first issue, and wish them every success in the future.

Best wishes,

Bernard Davies.

"Missent to ....." by Michael P.Birks


MAL ENCAMINADA A NICARAGUA
BANK OF LONDON & MONTREAL
Apdo. Postal 152
3a y 4 a Calle , 4a Avenida S.O.26
San Pedro Sula, Cortés
HONDURAS
EIRE 17
MAL ENCAMINADO A PANAMA
MAL ENCAMINADO A El Salvador

I have always regarded "Missent to....." marks as being an extravagance of the 19th century. With the volume of mail small, there was time to take the trouble to explain why a letter had taken eight weeks to arrive, instead of the usual three. With the drastic reduction in transmission time, from weeks to days, which has occurred over the past hundred years, I would have thought it superfluous to explain the minimal delays which now occur. Indeed the volume of mail carried these days is so large, that I would not have thought that there was time to handstamp missent mail. But not so.

Certainly in three C.A. countries handstamps are in use inscribed 'Not intended for ...' in Spanish, as shown in the illustrations on the left.

The cover on the left was posted in Panama on 10-10-74, but did not arrive in Honduras until the 22nd. The reason for the delay is explained by the cachet handstruck in the usual purple of Nicaragua.

The cover top right, was posted in Ireland on 13-12-78, intended for Nicaragua, where it arrived on 18-1-79. For some reason it arrived in Panama, evidenced by the purple handstruck cachet. Even more surprising, the cover was in Paraguay on 8-1-79, if the receiving mark on the back is to be believed.

Finally the card, bottom right, posted in New York on 18-4-79, travelled via El Salvador, before being delivered in Nicaragua. This handstruck cachet is in blue.

Do any other countries use this type of cachet?

CAUSERIE - Replies to questions previously posed.

Finn Stjernholck from Denmark, writes in answer to the questions posed in N.F.Brewin's article about Costa Rican picture postal stationery in our last issue. He writes;-

"the green card with two pictures on the reverse side is not a government issue card, but a private printed post card, printed in green like H&G 3 or in black. The postcard has, of course, no printed stamp, and differs from the government issued one in the word 'Tarjeta' that on the private printed cards is spelled 'Tarieta'. At least eleven different cards seem to have been printed, numbered in Roman letters to the left of the picture side."

As far as Mr Stjernholck knows used items are only to be found from the period 1900-3 and are rather scarce. George Richardson has kindly furnished us with some photocopies and related comment on the card in Mr Brewin's article, and of three similar items dating from 15th November 1904 to 16th March 1905. We hope to include George Richardson's comments and illustrations in our next issue.

20. We hope to report in our next issue on some of the information gathered by Brian Moorhouse in response to his request for the logging of HONDURAS Permitase covers. Meanwhile, we should draw readers' attention to two excellent articles on this subject by Richard Wheatley (in Mainsheet Vol.2 No.8 and Vol.3 No.11)

21. In response to Mr Maxwell's enquiry about Correo-Aereo 1929 P.A.A. overprints, Kilian Nathan informs us that these are ESSAYS for the first air mail stamps; he also has in his collection other essays in a new design and various colours.

NEW CAUSERIE

22. Mr Nathan also reports an imperforate between variety of SG70 Nicaragua, the 10c Seebeck issue of 1891. He has recently acquired a pair used on cover cancelled SAN JUAN del NORTE 13 January 1891 addressed to Laurenceville, New York, where it arrived via New Orleans on 7th February.

23. EL SALVADOR; Mr A.B.Thomas of Billericay asks about differences of gum in the Isabella set SG991-4. He recently bought a set in which the gum on two of the values was plainly different from the gum on the other two.

24. HONDURAS; Richard Wheatley of Leeds asks about a couple of stamps in his collection with a handstamp of what appears to be a German merchant in Managua, Nicaragua, details as follows;-

"SG82 Cabanas 2C and SG93 Justice 2c. Black undated 28mm double ring mark, which, owing to its size in relation to the stamps, only partly appears on the postage stamps, but in both cases MANAGUA is clear. The other part of the inscription is incomplete; however, on one stamp appears NHEIM and on the other PO---- RE--- PU----IM.

a) Are they marks of a German merchant, and if so what is his name?
b) Why cancel the stamps?
c) Is there any significance in both stamps being 2c, apart from that being the postcard rate between the two countries at the time?

25. Leo Harris asks to what extent were pen-cancels used? Are any other than the pen-stroke cancels known, such as place names etc. Is the lack of pen-cancels after earliest times due to good organisation in supplying postmasters with proper cancellers?

26. Reference the 'Honduras' in horizontal bars cancellations, Leo asks;-

a) were these 'flat' cancellers, or rollers? What was their construction so far as 'Honduras' was concerned - all in one, or 'Honduras' attached or inserted as a 'slug'.
b) since examples are known of 'Honduras' missing from this type of cancellation, was this purely fortuitous or deliberate?

27. Leo also asks about facsimile signatures on SG196-205, SG319-37 and SG328-36; are they all of the signature of Santiago Herrera? When were they applied? Why? Why different types of the facsimile? Any information would be welcome.

28. A member researching into the work of the U.S. Marine Corps in Nicaragua, would welcome photostats of relevant covers; he is willing to pay costs of postage and photocopying. about 40 ☐ + information.

29. Alan Barrow asks about the status of Costa Rica SG92 with overprint HABILLTADO and of Honduras SG333 with overprint in blue. He asks whether the T S de C no stop varieties of Nonduras SG328-339b are common as nearly all those he owns seem to have one or more stops missing.

30. Leo Malz of New York is perplexed by a stamp which appears to be SG0334 with the small '1' variety on the '15', but with the word 'oficial' barred out as on SG333 (see illustration on the right) Has he found a new variety? Probably yes.

Sc O 224 ?

31. Richard Washburn writes from Costa Rica to try to determine the date of the earliest known usage for the Honduras Cabañas Issue SG81-91. He has the 30 ctvs. stamp used on cover front from the N.Y. Honduras Rosario Mining Company, with a circular Tegucigalpa postmark on September 1st 1893. He knows no earlier marking, and would appreciate any information relating to a possible usage in August 1893.
Mr Washburn writes;-

> "As background data we know that in La Gaceta of February 7th 1893, there is a detailed account of the Seebeck 'Bogran' issue SG56-69 remainders, consisting of 1 771 943 stamps from the original 2 million delivered. These remainders were given to Seebeck's agent, Mr George Bernhard. After looking through the Gacetas of 1893 and 1894, we cannot find a specific decree authorizing the Cabañas issue; it is to be supposed that it was valid, as the previous two issues were, starting August 1st 1893. Irving Green reported in his article 'That Man Seebeck' that he owned a postally used cover dated September 26th 1893. Reference to this Cabañas issue is made in a decree of January 28th 1895, 'the postal stamps of 1893 which were qualified for use in 1894'. Since the Seebeck contract was disapproved by Decree No.98 of October 19th 1893, this could be a reason for the absence of an official Cabañas Issue decree."

32. Leo Harris of Harrow has sent us examples of the Bluefields overprint on railway coupon stamps of Nicaragua, including an error 'D' for 'B'.

error; 'D' for 'B'

Leo writes;-

> "A 'find' in my fiscal collection which may be of interest to postage stamp enthusiasts is a 1c vermilion railway coupon. This received, as is well known, an overprint validating it for fiscal use, 'Timbre Fiscal' and revalued 'Vale 10 cents', in two lines applied vertically. This is the stage it reached when it was further overprinted for postal use.
>
> Fiscal stamps, as well as postage stamps and telegraph stamps received an overprint authorising its use in the Province of Zelaya, 'B' and 'Dpto.Zelaya', of which many types are illustrated in Gibbons catalogue, both handstamped and machine overprinted.
>
> The example in question bears a machine overprint exactly similar to (I hesitate to say 'identical' because I have no specimens with which to compare it) SG Type B8, but very clearly bears a 'D' instead of a 'B'. There is no doubt that it is a 'D', being a well-printed example.

Does any member of the Spanish Main in general, or of the Central American Group in particular, know of this apparent error, either on postage or fiscal stamps? If it is not an error, what does the 'D' represent? If it is an error, is it a one-off or is it constant? Not knowing the make-up of the overprint forme, would there be possibly a number of these errors in the sheet and, if so, how many? DESTASE

I would be grateful for answers to any of the questions posed above."

33. As a collector of the fiscal stamps of Nicaragua, as well as the orthodox postal issues, I came across recently a category of fiscal stamps about which I know nothing, and would welcome information upon it. The category is "Impuesto de Caminos" which I translate roughly as road tax or duty; although there may be finer nuances in the word 'caminos' than I can attach to it.

The stamp takes the form of a three line overprint on, so far as I have come across, two postage stamps of 1 January 1900. The top two lines 'Impuesto de/Caminos' in upper and lower case seriffed letters, and the lower line 'Vale' followed by a new value expressed in $ (pesos at that time). It is a machine overprint applied in one operation, as evidenced by an example I have of the entire overprint appearing very clearly double. The lower line is in larger and bolder letters and figures.

I have seen only four values to this moment. $3 on 1c claret, SG137; and $5, $10 and $25 on 2c orange-red, SG138. There is a manuscript date on one of 25 February 1909, which immediately dispels any idea of a road tax as applied to motor-vehicles as we know it in the United Kingdom.

So the questions to which I seek answers are; to what use was this category of fiscal stamps put? Why more than one denomination, all of fairly high face value for those days? If current circa 1909, why did it not appear in Forbin's catalogue? Were there other values? Did similar overprints appear on other postage stamps?

PRIVATE TREATY OFFERS - GUATEMALA

G 1. SG142 sheet of 100 with some tissue paper adhering to back £17

G 2. SG697, 698, 699 and 701 sheets of 50 unmounted mint £4

G 3. SG136 67 u.m. copies, various size blocks £2

G 4. SG787 block of four u.m. £3¼

G 5. SG1014-25, MS1026 (3 sheets) all u.m. £7

G 6. 1930 Postal Memorandum used as F.D.C. Guatemala-Quezaltenango £20

NICARAGUA

N15. SG601 25c palace mint cat. £14 scarce need USED, also 603 USED £10

N16. SG616c PAA double mint single @ £3½ or pair @ £7

N17. SG446b pair used on specimen stamp £10½

N18. SG446b the same but a single £5½

N19. SG441a and 442a Parricular £4

N20. SG0109 used strip of three cat.£12 fine £4

N21. SG1120-1145 Baseball set complete mint £11

N22. Many miniature sheets of Nicaragua are available, from SGMS1121 to 2144, prices (generally around ⅔rds cat.) on request from the Editor.

EL SALVADOR

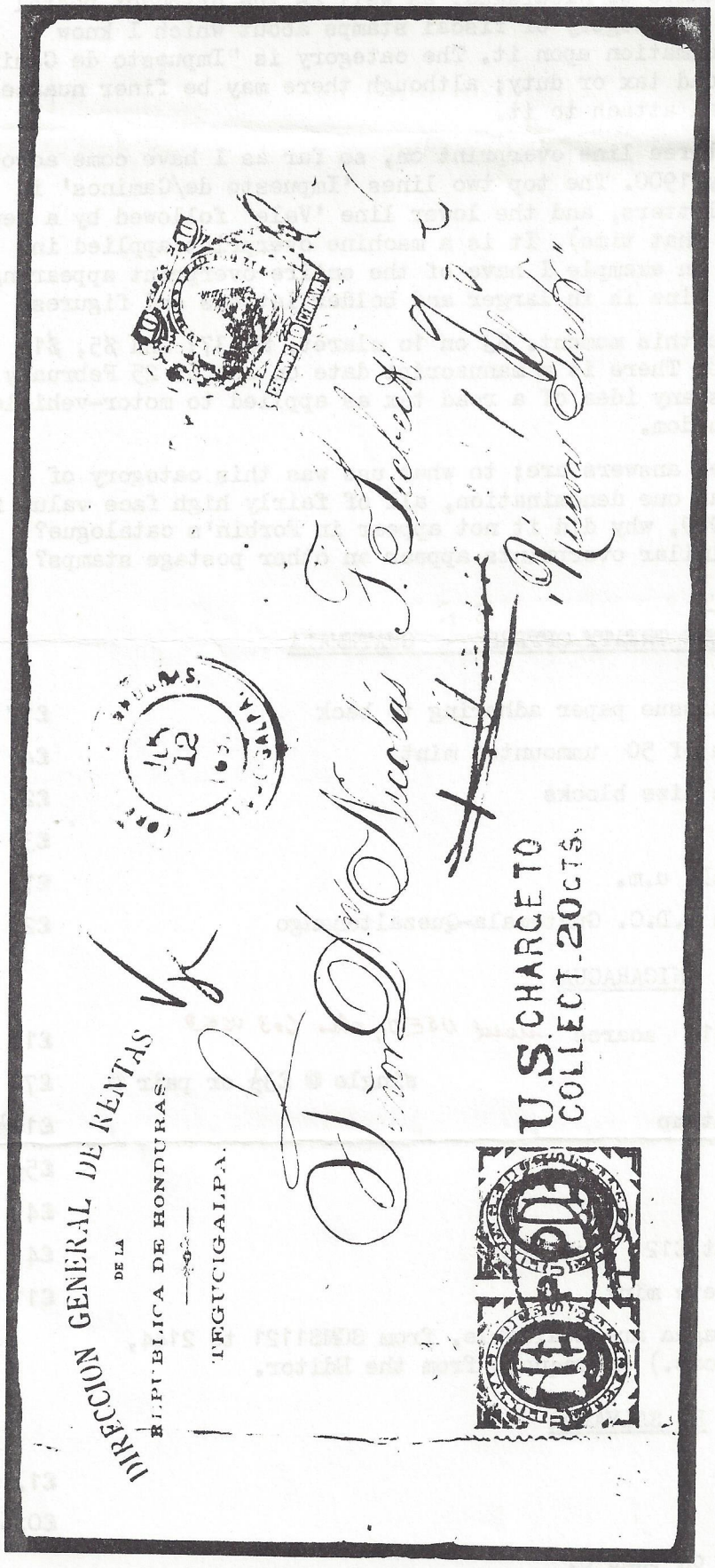
S56. SG1319-22 Human Rights mint £1.10

S57. SG1323-27 Army Day mint £0.60

More offers on page 8.

HONDURAS: 10c Official of 1890 - I. Agurcia

Heretofore most have thought that Seebeck printed these yellow Honduras officials after his contract had been cancelled by the Honduras Congress (1895), and were strictly a philatelic issue, since no covers had come to light to prove the contrary. I had my doubts about that because I also Have a used stamp (off cover) with a clear New Orleans, La. c.d.s. 1892 that appears quite genuine, and was probably a transit postmark. - I.A.



We illustrate Ignacio Agurcia's letter with a photostat of his cover, and the marks found on the back. Enclosed with these photocopies was a photocopy of certificate No. 87 668, issued by the Philatelic Foundation of New York, expert committee, which reads;-

Country HONDURAS Issue 1890

Denomination 10c

Color pale yellow Cat.No. 04

..... and are of the opinion that it is genuinely used on this cover .....

NICARAGUA: THE SURCHARGE PERIOD

by Bernard Davies

(This is the second, and concluding part, and is continued from the September issue, No.1)

In June and July 1908, five postage stamps were produced from the large school tax stamps (fig 7). There are two printings (in the consecutive months) of the 5c on 2c orange, the latter having a large 'V' in 'VALE' (maybe the original 'V' had dropped out, a not unusual phenomenon in the surcharge period, and, what would have been more unusual, it was discovered that it had done so! Some of this batch of four issued in June/July 1908 can be found inverted or double; the 10c on 2c is also found with date error '1988' and with an inverted ¢. Another scarce error is a blue surcharge of the 4c on 2c. At about this time there appeared a 'Correos - 1908' handstamp on the large school tax 1c. Stroub describes this as "a private speculation", although some so marked seem to have passed through the post (perhaps not so surprisingly when the shortages were soacute that fiscals were sometimes perforce used for postage without any indication of postal validity, such covers existing not infrequently among what survives from the period).

Also in June 1908 there appeared an official set on the large school tax stamps, identical apart from year date to that issue in 1907. Again there are differences of fount, especially in the '0' of numerals and date. Inverted surcharges exist on 10c ob 1c, 15c on 1c and 1p on 1c; double surcharges are found on 35c on 1c and 35c on 2c. This issue exhausted the stocks of the large school tax stamps.

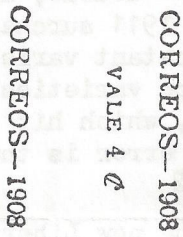


fig. 7

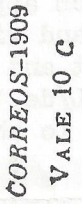


fig. 8

In February 1909 the 50c smaller fiscal was surcharged in five values (fig 8), of which the 5c can be found surcharge inverted. There are three types of the ¢ character on all five values.

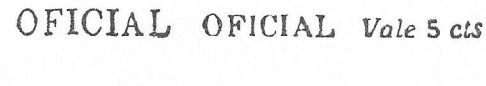


fig. 9 fig. 10

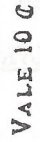


fig. 11 fig. 12

fig. 13

The ABN Co 'Arms' set referred to previously made its appearance in March 1909; some values had run out at the Post Offices in just over a year, partly because of a foolish reduction in the order for some of the lower values. Two official sets were made on this issue in 1909 (20mm long (fig 9)) and 1910 (17mm long (fig 10), and including two surcharges (fig 11) in the set of six). Then we are immediately back to surcharges for postage, to make good the shortage of lower values; in 1910 the 3c reddish orange and the 15c black received a single-line surcharge 'Vale 2c' and 'Vale 10c' respectively (fig 12) with a large 'V', the latter having the error 'Vlea' and another error, surcharge double. In the same year 2c on 3c, 5c on 20c and 10c on 15c appeared with single-line 'vale' surcharges (fig 13). The 5c on 20c was surcharged in black (rare) as well as in red (more common); there are various constant errors (eg 'VALE' omitted) within this group, as well as inverted and double surcharges.

continued over/

WANTS LIST

Commission rate 10% - payable by purchaser.

Kilian Nathan Nicaragua SG629 (Scott 428B) 1c Resello overprint in black, mint

In 1910-11 a second group of surcharges on the ABN Co. stamps appeared in two lines (one setting 3mm apart (fig 14) and another 6½mm apart (fig 15)). Apart from the error 'Yale' for 'Vale' on the 10c on 15c black, there is an absence of type errors on this group of stamps, but this is more than counterbalanced by a greater than usual carelessness in the feeding in of sheets to the press; double, inverted, combinations of double and inverted, and (in the 10c on 2p) triple surcharges exist. Both the narrow and the wide surcharges have one stamp per pane of 25 without stop after 'cts'. The writer possesses one used pair of the 10c on 15c in which the left-hand stamp has received no surcharge at all.

fig. 14

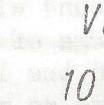


fig. 15

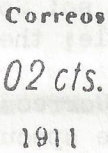


fig. 16

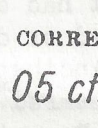


fig. 17

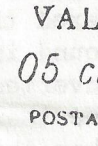


fig. 18

By April 1911 these ABN Co. surcharges were used up so that fiscal stamps, printed in settings of 25, were reverted to and surcharged (fig 16). Apart from a multiplicity of varieties caused by broken or dropped type, there are some major constant varieties - 'cte' for 'cts' in position 5, no stop after 'cts' in positions 14 and 16, square stop in position 25; the 05c on 10p pink alone has a thin 's' in 'Correos' (position 6) and the 35c on 1p has the 'os' of 'Correos' omitted in its first setting, later corrected (position 4). There are also the usual sheet errors - double, inverted, and combinations thereof. The 05c on 2p grey, which appeared in June 1911 surcharged CORREOS/05 cts/1911 (fig 17), also exists inverted, and with various constant varieties - square stop, thick upright 'c' etc. Similar constant and inconstant type varieties exist on the last batch of this issue (VALE/05 cts/POSTAL/de 1911 (fig 18)), which hit the market in late June 1911; the only one of this batch to show with sheet error is the 05c on 5p ultramarine, which exists inverted.

By this time things were getting desperate; the new Liberty and Locomotive issue was on order, but all supplies of postage stamps and of fiscal stamps had been exhausted. Faced with the need to find anything at all which could be used for postal purposes, the Nicaraguan authorities remembered their rail coupon stamps, and until the new issue could be put on sale in January 1912, these were employed - surely the oddest six months of 'stamp' issues ever! Readers are reminded that a comprehensive article by John Fosbery exists in 'Mainsheet' Volume II number 8.

Concluded.

P.T. EL SALVADOR (cont)

S58.	SG1328-43 Football	£7½
S59.	SG1346-49 Education Year	£1.30
S60.	SG888-91 Canas mint	£4
S61.	SG981-84 UPU mint	£4
S62.	SG13 20c deep purple mint cat £14	£3
S63.	SG770-74 Airs, first issue first printing	£3½
S64.	SG908-9 Rowland Hill pair mint	£6½
S65.	SG1180-93 Fauna mint	£1.30
S66.	SG1198-1207 + two miniature sheets Kennedy mint	£1½
S67.	SG1209-15 Flora mint	£1.40
S68.	SG1281-88 Butterflies mint	£5
S69.	SG1289-94 Red Cross mint	£2
S70.	SG1299-1304 Hospitals mint	£3
S71.	SG1313-18 Insects mint	£3½
S72.	SG1307-12 Tourism mint	£1

All private treaty enquiries to Bernard Davies.